

REMARKS

The present Amendment adds new claims 8-13 and leaves claims 2-7 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 2-13.

In the office action the Examiner rejected claims 2-7 under the Judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of the prior U.S. Patent No. 6,505,199 and claims 1-6 of the prior U.S. Patent No. 6,728,710. Applicants do not agree with this rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application filed on even date herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer obviating this rejection. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

It should be noted that the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer is not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants' part that the features of the present invention recited in claims 2-7 are taught or suggested by the claims of the prior patents. The filing of the Terminal Disclaimer was simply to expedite prosecution of the present application.

Applicants note that no other rejections are outstanding with respect to claims 2-7. Therefore, claims 2-7 are allowable over the prior art of record.

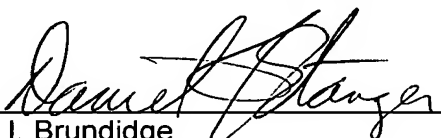
The present Amendment adds new claims 8-13 which recite many of the same features recited in claims 2-7. Thus, the same reasons for allowance of claims 2-7 apply as well to claims 8-13.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 2-13 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 2-13 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.37943CX2).

Respectfully submitted,

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